

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE VEHICLE CODE

	Page
General Provisions	1
DIVISION 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED	5
DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION	49
Chapter 1. The Department of Motor Vehicles	49
Article 1. Organization of Department.....	49
Article 2. Powers and Duties.....	50
Article 3. Records of Department.....	64
Chapter 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol	84
Article 1. Administration	84
Article 2. The California Highway Patrol.....	85
Article 3. Powers and Duties.....	90
Article 3.3. Tow Truck Drivers.....	101
Article 3.5. Emergency Roadside Assistance.....	105
Article 4. Highway Spill Containment and Abatement of Hazardous Substances	109
Article 5. Renderers and Transporters of Inedible Kitchen Grease	110
Chapter 2.5. Licenses Issued by California Highway Patrol.....	112
Article 1. General Provisions	112
Article 2. Privately Owned and Operated Ambulances and Armored Cars	114
Article 3.5. Inspection and Maintenance Stations.....	115
Article 4. Transportation of Hazardous Material	116
Article 5. Denial, Suspension and Revocation	116
Article 7. Transportation of School Pupils	118
Chapter 3. The Reciprocity Commission.....	120
Article 1. Administration	120
Article 2. Powers and Duties.....	120
Chapter 4. Administration and Enforcement	120
Article 1. Lawful Orders and Inspections.....	120
Chapter 5. California Traffic Safety Program.....	128
Article 1. Traffic Safety	128
Article 2. Motorcycle Safety	130
Chapter 6. New Motor Vehicle Board	131
Article 1. Organization of Board.....	131
Article 2. Powers and Duties of Board.....	134
Article 3. Appeals From Decisions of the Department	137
Article 4. Hearings on Franchise Modification, Replacement, Termination, Refusal to Continue, Delivery and Preparation Obligations, and Warranty Reimbursement	139

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DIVISION	3. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES AND CERTIFICATES OF TITLE	147
Chapter	1. Original and Renewal Registration; Issuance of Certificates of Title	147
Article	1. Vehicles Subject to Registration	147
Article	2. Original Registration	157
Article	3. Registration of Foreign Vehicles.....	161
Article	4. Evidences of Registration.....	163
Article	5. Renewal of Registration	171
Article	6. Refusal of Registration.....	176
Article	6.5. Refusal of Registration for Nonpayment of Toll Evasion Penalties	181
Article	7. License Plates	183
Article	8. Special Plates.....	184
Article	8.1. Motorized Bicycles.....	197
Article	8.3. Historic and Special Interest Vehicles	199
Article	8.4. Special Interest License Plates.....	200
Article	8.5. Environmental License Plates.....	212
Article	9. Display of Plates, Tabs, and Stickers	219
Article	9.5. Registration of Fleet Vehicles	222
Article	10. Registration of Trailer Coaches	224
Article	12. Surrender of Registration Documents and License Plates	225
Chapter	2. Transfers of Title or Interest	227
Article	1. Procedure to Transfer.....	227
Article	2. Endorsement and Delivery of Documents.....	230
Article	3. Notice and Application	232
Article	4. Transfer by Department	238
Article	5. Transfers Through Wholesale Auctions	238
Chapter	2.5. Miscellaneous Title Provisions	239
Article	1. Certificate of Title as Evidence.....	239
Article	2. Inspection and Cancellation of Titles for Exported Vehicles	240
Article	3. Return of Stolen Motor Vehicle Retained as Evidence	241
Chapter	3. Filing Instruments Evidencing Liens or Encumbrances	241
Chapter	4. Permits to Nonresident Owners	242
Article	1. Exemption of Nonresidents.....	242
Article	2. Foreign Commercial Vehicles	245
Article	3. Reciprocity Agreements	247
Article	4. Apportioned Registration.....	247
Article	6. Enforcement of Liens on Apportioned Fleet Vehicles.....	249
Chapter	5. Offenses Against Registration Laws and Suspension, Revocation, and Cancellation of Registration	251

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page	
Chapter	6.	Registration and Weight Fees	252
Article	1.	Exemptions	252
Article	2.	Registration Fees.....	256
Article	3.	Weight Fees	269
Article	4.	Payment of Fees	275
Article	5.	Partial Year Payment of Weight Fees.....	282
Article	6.	Enforcement of Liens	283
DIVISION	3.5.	REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF VESSELS	288
Chapter	1.	General Provisions and Definitions.....	288
Chapter	2.	Registration	289
Chapter	3.	Transfer of Title or Interest in Undocumented Vessel	299
DIVISION	3.6.	VEHICLE SALES	307
Chapter	1.	Advertising, Brochures, and Manuals.....	307
Chapter	2.	Manufacturer's Responsibility for Safety Defects	307
Chapter	3.	Engine Manufacturers	308
Chapter	4.	Disclosure of Damage	308
DIVISION	4.	SPECIAL ANTITHEFT LAWS	310
Chapter	1.	Reports of Stolen Vehicles.....	310
Chapter	1.5.	Reports of Stolen Vessels	311
Chapter	2.	Reports of Stored Vehicles	312
Chapter	3.	Alteration or Removal of Numbers.....	314
Chapter	3.5.	Motor Vehicle Chop Shops	316
Chapter	4.	Theft and Injury of Vehicles	317
Chapter	5.	Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention.....	319
DIVISION	5.	OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS	321
Chapter	1.	Driving Schools and Driving Instructors	321
Chapter	1.5.	Traffic Violator Schools	336
Chapter	2.	Vehicle Verifiers	353
Chapter	2.5.	Registration Services.....	357
Chapter	3.	Automobile Dismantlers	362
Chapter	3.5.	Lessor-Retailers.....	374
Chapter	4.	Manufacturers, Transporters, Dealers, and Salesmen.....	384
Article	1.	Issuance of Licenses and Certificates to Manufacturers, Transporters, and Dealers	384
Article	2.	Vehicle Salespersons	423
Article	3.	Representatives	427
Chapter	5.	Sale of Housecars	431

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page	
Chapter	7.	Sale of Automobile Parts.....	432
Chapter	8.	Private Party Vehicle Markets	432
Chapter	9.	Towing.....	433
Chapter	10.	Sales of Vehicles by Private Owners	434
DIVISION	6.	DRIVERS' LICENSES	436
Chapter	1.	Issuance of Licenses, Expiration, and Renewal.....	436
Article	1.	Persons Required to Be Licensed, Exemptions, and Age Limits.....	436
Article	2.	Student Licenses	451
Article	3.	Issuance and Renewal of Licenses.....	453
Article	4.	Signature and Display of Licenses	485
Article	5.	Identification Cards.....	486
Chapter	2.	Suspension or Revocation of Licenses	491
Article	1.	General Provisions	491
Article	2.	Suspension or Revocation by Court.....	492
Article	3.	Suspension and Revocation by Department	498
Article	4.	Procedure	526
Chapter	3.	Investigation and Hearing	535
Article	1.	Investigation and Re-examination	535
Article	2.	Notice	536
Article	3.	Hearing	538
Article	4.	Probation.....	541
Article	5.	Review of Orders	541
Chapter	4.	Violation of License Provisions	542
Chapter	5.	License Fees.....	564
Article	1.	Imposition of Fees	564
Article	2.	Collection of Fees.....	566
Chapter	6.	Driver License Compact.....	567
Article	1.	Generally.....	567
Article	2.	Compact Terms.....	567
Chapter	7.	Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Program.....	570
Article	1.	Intent.....	570
Article	2.	Definitions.....	570
Article	3.	Driver Notification Requirements	571
Article	4.	Employer Responsibilities.....	572
Article	5.	Commercial Driver's License	573
Article	6.	Endorsements	577
Article	7.	Sanctions.....	578
DIVISION	6.5.	MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSACTIONS WITH MINORS	581
Chapter	1.	Driver's License Requirements.....	581
DIVISION	6.7.	UNATTENDED CHILD IN MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT	582
Chapter	1.	General Provisions	582

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Chapter	2.	Offenses.....
Chapter	3.	Educational Provisions.....
DIVISION	7.	FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWS.....
Chapter	1.	Compulsory Financial Responsibility.....
Article	1.	Accident Reports.....
Article	2.	Financial Responsibility.....
Article	3.	Evidence of Financial Responsibility
Article	4.	Suspensions
Chapter	2.	Suspensions Following Unsatisfied Judgments.....
Article	1.	Definitions.....
Article	2.	Suspension of Driving Privilege
Chapter	3.	Proof of Financial Responsibility.....
Article	1.	Proof Requirements.....
Article	2.	Insurance Policy
Article	3.	Release of Proof
Chapter	4.	Commercial Vehicles
Chapter	6.	Interstate Highway Carriers
DIVISION	9.	CIVIL LIABILITY
Chapter	1.	Civil Liability of Owners and Operators of Vehicles
Article	1.	Public Agencies.....
Article	2.	Private Owners.....
Article	2.5.	Uninsured Owners
Article	3.	Liability for Damage to Highway
Article	4.	Service of Process
Chapter	2.	Civil Liability of Persons Signing License Applications of Minors
		617
DIVISION	10.	ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTS
Chapter	1.	Accidents and Accident Reports
DIVISION	11.	RULES OF THE ROAD
Chapter	1.	Obedience to and Effect of Traffic Laws.....
Article	1.	Definitions.....
Article	2.	Effect of Traffic Laws
Article	3.	Local Regulation.....
Article	4.	Operation of Bicycles.....
Article	5.	Operation of Motorized Scooters.....
Article	5.	Operation of Low-Speed Vehicles
Article	6.	Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices.....
Chapter	2.	Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings
Article	1.	Erection and Maintenance.....
Article	2.	Official Traffic Control Devices
		661

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Article	3.	Offenses Relating to Traffic Devices 661
Chapter	3.	Driving, Overtaking, and Passing 669
Article	1.	Driving on Right Side 669
Article	2.	Additional Driving Rules 675
Article	3.	Overtaking and Passing 679
Chapter	4.	Right-of-Way 681
Chapter	5.	Pedestrians' Rights and Duties 685
Chapter	6.	Turning and Stopping and Turning Signals 689
Chapter	7.	Speed Laws 693
Article	1.	Generally 693
Article	2.	Other Speed Laws 699
Chapter	8.	Special Stops Required 702
Chapter	9.	Stopping, Standing, and Parking 706
Chapter	10.	Removal of Parked and Abandoned Vehicles 726
Article	1.	Authority to Remove Vehicles 726
Article	2.	Vehicle Disposition 747
Chapter	11.	Parking Lots 757
Chapter	12.	Public Offenses 758
Article	1.	Driving Offenses 758
Article	1.3.	Offenses by Persons Under 21 Years of Age Involving Alcohol 768
Article	1.5.	Juvenile Offenses Involving Alcohol 769
Article	1.7.	Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program 769
Article	2.	Offenses Involving Alcohol and Drugs 769
Article	4.	Ignition Interlock Device 777
Article	5.	Alcohol and Drug Problem Assessment Program 778
Chapter	13.	Vehicular Crossings and Toll Highways 779
Article	1.	General Provisions 779
Article	2.	Towing on Vehicular Crossings 780
Article	3.	Tolls and Other Charges 781
Article	4.	Special Traffic Regulations 782
DIVISION	11.5.	SENTENCING FOR DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE 784
Chapter	1.	Court Imposed Penalties: Persons Less Than 21 Years Of Age 784
Article	1.	General Provisions 784
Article	2.	Penalties for a Violation of Section 23140 784
Article	3.	Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program 784
Article	4.	Penalties for a Violation of Section 23152 or 23153 787
Chapter	2.	Court Penalties 788
Article	1.	General Provisions 788
Article	2.	Penalties for a Violation of Section 23152 788
Article	3.	Penalties for a Violation of Section 23153 795
Article	4.	Additional Punishments 800
Article	5.	Additional Penalties and Sanctions 800

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Article	6.	Additional Court-Imposed Orders and Directions..... 805
Article	7.	Alternative to Alcohol or Drug Education Program.. 808
Chapter	3.	Probation..... 808
Chapter	4.	Procedures 810
Article	1.	General Provisions 810
Article	2.	Prior and Separate Offenses..... 814
Article	3.	Defenses 815
Article	4.	Dismissal on the Record..... 815
Article	5.	Court Restrictions
Article	6.	Alcohol Assessment..... 816
Article	7.	Presentence Investigation..... 819
Article	9.	Delayed Suspensions and Revocations..... 819
Article	10.	Conflict of Interest..... 820
Article	11.	Operative Date 820
DIVISION	12.	EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES 821
Chapter	1.	General Provisions 821
Chapter	2.	Lighting Equipment 831
Article	1.	General Provisions 831
Article	2.	Headlamps and Auxiliary Lamps..... 831
Article	3.	Rear Lighting Equipment 834
Article	4.	Parking Lamps 840
Article	5.	Signal Lamps and Devices..... 840
Article	6.	Side and Fender Lighting Equipment..... 841
Article	7.	Flashing and Colored Lights..... 846
Article	8.	Warning Lights and Devices..... 856
Article	9.	Commercial and Common Carrier Vehicles..... 857
Article	10.	Diffused Lights 858
Article	11.	Acetylene Lamps 859
Article	12.	Reflectorizing Material..... 859
Article	13.	Headlamps on Motorcycles and Motor-Driven Cycles..... 859
Article	14.	Vehicles Exempted 860
Article	15.	Light Restrictions and Mounting 862
Article	16.	Equipment Testing..... 863
Chapter	3.	Brakes 864
Article	1.	Brake Requirements..... 864
Article	2.	Operation of Brakes 866
Article	3.	Airbrakes 868
Article	4.	Vacuum Brakes 872
Chapter	4.	Windshields and Mirrors 872
Chapter	5.	Other Equipment..... 877
Article	1.	Horns, Sirens, and Amplification Devices..... 877
Article	2.	Exhaust Systems 878
Article	2.5.	Noise Limits..... 883
Article	3.	Safety Belts and Inflatable Restraint Systems..... 885

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page	
Article	3.3.	Child Safety Belt and Passenger Restraints Requirements.....	891
Article	3.5.	Headsets and Earplugs	897
Article	4.	Tires	897
Article	5.	Fenders, Ornaments, and Television	901
Article	6.	Tow Trucks	903
Article	7.	Motorcycles	903
Article	8.	Signs.....	905
Article	9.	Refrigeration Equipment	909
Article	10.	Odometers.....	909
Article	11.	Fire Extinguishers.....	910
Article	11.5.	Bumpers.....	910
Article	12.	Camper Signaling Devices	911
Article	13.	Theft Alarm System	911
Article	14.	Cellular Telephones.....	911
Article	15.	Pilot Cars	912
Article	16.	Methanol or Ethanol Fueled Vehicles	912
Article	17.	Jamming Devices.....	913
DIVISION	13.	TOWING AND LOADING EQUIPMENT	914
Chapter	1.	Towing Equipment.....	914
Chapter	2.	Logs and Poles	916
Chapter	3.	Lumber and Lumber Products.....	917
Chapter	4.	Baled Hay	917
Chapter	5.	Transporting Other Loads	918
Article	1.	Hazardous Materials.....	918
Article	2.	Vehicles Transporting Workmen.....	921
Article	3.	Trailers.....	924
Article	4.	Metal and Metal Products.....	925
Article	5.	Baled Cotton, Paper, and Jute.....	925
Article	6.	Boxes	926
Article	7.	Tank Containers.....	926
Article	8.	Waste Tires	926
DIVISION	14.	TRANSPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES.....	927
DIVISION	14.1.	TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL	933
Chapter	1.	Licensing.....	933
Chapter	2.	Notification of Routes.....	936
DIVISION	14.3.	TRANSPORTATION OF INHALATION HAZARDS	938
DIVISION	14.5.	TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS	942

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DIVISION	14.7. FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS	944
Article	1. Administration	944
Article	2. Regulations	945
Article	4. Enforcement.....	946
Article	5. Violations	947
DIVISION	14.8. SAFETY REGULATIONS	948
DIVISION	14.85. MOTOR CARRIERS OF PROPERTY PERMIT ACT	977
Chapter	1. General Provisions and Definitions.....	977
Chapter	2. Motor Carrier Permits.....	979
Chapter	3. Insurance	983
Chapter	4. Workers' Compensation	988
Chapter	6. Fines and Penalties	988
DIVISION	14.9. MOTOR VEHICLE DAMAGE CONTROL	990
Chapter	1. Short Title.....	990
Chapter	2. General Provisions and Definitions.....	990
Chapter	3. Departmental Action.....	990
DIVISION	15. SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD	991
Chapter	1. General Provisions	991
Chapter	2. Width.....	992
Chapter	3. Height.....	994
Chapter	4. Length	995
Chapter	5. Weight	1006
Article	1. Axle Limits.....	1006
Article	1.5. Intermodal Weight Determination Program	1014
Article	2. Tire Limits	1014
Article	3. Limit Changes on State Highways.....	1015
Article	4. Local Authorities	1016
Article	5. Bridges and Other Structures	1023
Article	6. Permits and Agreements.....	1024
DIVISION	16. IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY	1034
Chapter	1. Definitions.....	1034
Chapter	2. Registration of Implements of Husbandry.....	1036
Chapter	3. Drivers' Licenses	1039
Chapter	4. Speed Laws	1039
Chapter	5. Equipment of Implements of Husbandry	1039
Chapter	6. Size, Weight and Load of Implements of Husbandry	1040
Chapter	7. Other Requirements.....	1042
Chapter	8. General Provisions	1042

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DIVISION	16.5. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES	1043
Chapter	1. General Provisions	1043
Chapter	2. Registration of Off-Highway Vehicles; Original and Renewal of Identification; Issuance of Certificates Issuance of Ownership	1044
Article	1. Motor Vehicles Subject to Identification	1044
Article	2. Original Identification.....	1047
Article	3. Evidences of Identification.....	1049
Article	4. Renewal of Identification	1051
Article	5. Refusal of Identification	1053
Article	6. Identification Plate or Device	1054
Article	7. Dismantling of Off-Highway Motor Vehicles.....	1054
Article	8. Transfers of Title or Interest	1055
Article	9. Identification Fees	1056
Chapter	5. Off-Highway Vehicle Operating Rules	1061
Article	1. Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings	1061
Article	2. Operating Controls.....	1063
Article	3. Speed Laws	1063
Article	4. Turning and Starting	1063
Article	5. Reckless Driving.....	1063
Article	6. Littering and Environmental Protection	1064
Chapter	6. Equipment of Off-Highway Vehicles	1065
Article	1. General Provisions	1065
Article	2. Lighting Equipment	1065
Article	3. Brakes	1065
Article	4. Equipment	1066
Article	5. Emission Control Equipment.....	1068
Chapter	7. All-Terrain Vehicles	1069
DIVISION	16.7. REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF BICYCLES	1072
DIVISION	17. OFFENSES AND PROSECUTION	1075
Chapter	1. Offenses.....	1075
Article	1. Violation of Code.....	1075
Article	2. Procedure on Equipment and Registration Violations.....	1083
Article	3. Procedure on Parking Violations.....	1084
Article	4. Procedure on Toll Evasion Violations.....	1095
Chapter	2. Procedure on Arrests.....	1104
Article	1. Arrests.....	1104
Article	2. Release Upon Promise to Appear	1110
Article	3. Notice of Violation	1121
Article	4. Notice to Correct Violation.....	1122
Chapter	3. Illegal Evidence	1124
Article	1. Prosecutions Under Code	1124
Article	2. Civil Actions.....	1128

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Chapter	3.5. Evidence	1128
Chapter	4. Presumptions	1130
Chapter	5. Defenses	1130
Chapter	6. Nonprosecution of Violations	1132
Chapter	7. Arrest Quotas	1133
Chapter	8. Consolidated Disposition.....	1133
DIVISION	18. PENALTIES AND DISPOSITION OF FEES, FINES, AND FORFEITURES	1135
Chapter	1. Penalties	1135
Article	1. Public Offenses	1135
Article	2. Weight Violations	1152
Chapter	2. Disposition of Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures.....	1154
Article	1. Fines and Forfeitures	1154
Article	2. Refund of Fees and Penalties.....	1157
Chapter	3. Motor Vehicle Account	1158

